

associated antigen (PAG) that is present in early pregnancy and absent about 2 months post-partum. The claim thereby links each of the restricted claim groups, which are directed to methods comprising detection of different PAGs. Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 809.03., the linked claims are inseparable from the linking claim, claim 1. Accordingly, upon an indication that claim 1 is allowable, Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn as to the remaining groups and the remaining groups be examined. Applicants also reserve the right to file continuing applications directed to non-elected subject matter. Reconsideration of the application in view of the instant paper is respectfully requested.

This is submitted to be a complete response to the referenced Restriction Requirement. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (512) 536-3085 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Hanson
Reg. No. 42,628
Agent for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 474-5201

Date: October 10, 2001